Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-13 (Cancelled)

14. (Currently amended) In a method of interventional or intraoperative MRI wherein an invasive device is inserted into the vasculature of a human or non human animal body or through vascularised tissue in said body, and an MR image generated of at least a part of said body containing said device and said body being administered with a blood pool contrast agent, the improvement comprising **administering the blood pool contrast agent by i.v. injection directly into the body and** using imaging procedure signals generated from the blood pool contrast agent surrounding said device so as to visualize said device on said MR image **to guide the placement of the devices in the body**.

15. (Previously presented) The method of claim 14 wherein said device is selected from the group consisting of catheters, balloons, optical fibres, guide wires, needles, biopsy needles, electrodes, electrode leads, implants, stents and stent grafts.

16. (Previously presented) The method of claim 14 wherein said blood pool contrast agent comprises compounds selected from the group consisting of MS-325, carboxymethyl dextran GdDTPA conjugates, GdDTPA polylysine conjugates, cascade polymers, dendrimer polymers, superparamagnetic iron oxides, ultrasmall superparamagnetic iron oxides and carbohydrate stabilised iron oxide particles.

17. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16 wherein said blood pool contrast agent comprises superparamagnetic iron oxide particles having on their surfaces degraded starch.

18. (Previously presented) The method of claim 17 wherein said blood pool contrast agent further comprises a hydrophilic polymer.

19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 18 wherein said hydrophilic polymer is a functionalized polyalkylene oxide.

20. (Previously presented) The method of claim 14 wherein a difference in at least one parameter chosen from T_1, T_2 and T_2* between the blood and said device is utilized to generate image contrast between the blood and said device.

21. (Previously presented) The method of claim 14 wherein said device is filled with a diamagnetic material or a paramagnetic material.

22. (Previously presented) The method of claim 14 wherein said blood pool contrast agent enhances T_1 and/or T_2* relaxation properties of the blood relative to that of said device.

23. (Previously presented) The method of claim 22 wherein the T_1 relaxation property of the blood is enhanced relative to said device; T_1-weighted sequences are used and said device is filled with diamagnetic material so that the blood appears bright in said image, relative to said device.

24. (Previously presented) The method of claim 22 wherein the T_2* relaxation property of the blood is enhanced relative to said device; T_2*-weighted sequences are used and said device is filled with paramagnetic material so that said device appears bright in said image, relative to the blood.

25. (Previously presented) The method of claim 14 wherein said device is not marked with a magnetic susceptibility agent.

26. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 14 wherein the imaging procedure signals are T1 or T2* weighted spin echo or gradient echo sequences.

27. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 14 wherein the imaging procedure signals are gradient echo or echo planar imaging procedures.

28. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 14 wherein said blood pool contrast agent is an iron oxide blood pool MR contrast agent and the imaging procedure signals involves gradient echo imaging using small flip angles and short echo times or gradient echo imaging using larger flip angles and longer echo times.

29. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 28 wherein the small flip angle is 10 to 45 degrees and the short echo times are 0.5 to 5 ms.

30. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 28 wherein the larger flip angles are 55 to 75 degrees and the longer echo times are 6 to 20 ms.